



Are you interested in possibly becoming Catholic, or at least having some easy conversations about it?

Do you consider yourself a Catholic but still need to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Holy Communion, and/or Confirmation?

Then OCIA is just for you! There are already so many holy desires in your heart by God's grace (Ps 42)! We are honored to serve your interest in Catholicism, and we look forward to walking with you on your honest journey of reason and faith toward the fullness of God's Sacred Goodness, Truth, and Beauty (Ps 23). This wholistic formation program for adults (18+) is specially designed to foster your growth in holiness and transform your mind, heart, soul, and even your body into full conformity with Jesus Christ (Rom 12:2; Gal 2:20). OCIA is for adults who desire to enter the Kingdom of Heaven with an open heart so that they can enjoy God as much as they can in this life and in the next!

To serve you best, it is essential that you make a personal commitment to put Heaven first in your life, which includes your calendar and priorities (Deut 6:4-5). It may be necessary to exercise your First Amendment right by speaking to your employer to make yourself available for OCIA. God is the Creator and the Sustainer of your life at every moment (Wis 11:24-26). Being in right relationship with Him is the most important thing in the world (Rev 1:8). God is the only one who can fulfill your heart in this life and in the next (Ps 63). In other words, gaining Heaven is even worth losing everything on earth (Mt 13:44-46)! Putting Heaven first in your life means being open to the Catholic Church with trust and transparency (Eph 4:25). When we know you, we can serve you best (Jn 10:14).

We understand that becoming fully Catholic can be a very stirring experience (Ps 130). That is why it ordinarily takes many months to carefully prepare you to freely¹ and fruitfully receive the sacred gifts of the Sacraments of Initiation during the Easter Season in the Spring - just as the earliest Christians did (Ps 24). We take your whole personal journey - past, present, and future - very seriously and professionally with the upmost reverence for how you have experienced God's love and grace throughout your life (Ex 3:5). The mission of Catholicism is simply to set you up for mature love that is lifelong and everlasting (Eph 4:13) so that you can enjoy God as much as you can on earth in time and in Heaven for eternity.

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the ordinary process for adults to gradually become fully Catholic so that they can fully enjoy Catholicism with faith that is mature. If you want to become Catholic yet have grave obstacles to enjoying the full OCIA program, please let Fr. Wanner know so that we can provide for your particular needs.²

¹ The Catholic Church strictly forbids forcing anyone to embrace faith or alluring or enticing people by worrisome wiles. By the same token, she also strongly insists on this right, that no one be frightened away from faith by unjust vexations on the part of others.

² An adult in danger of death can become Catholic if, having some knowledge of the principal truths of the faith, the person has manifested in any way at all the intention to become Catholic and promises to observe the commandments of the Catholic religion.

How do I Join OCIA and become an Inquirer?

- 1) *Take some time to prayerfully fill out the Confidential OCIA Registration Form*
<https://stjparish.com/rcia-registration>
- 2) *Contact the Parish Office to set up a Catholic Discipleship Meeting with Fr. Wanner just like making a Dentist or Doctor's Appointment*
- 3) *Join the Catholic Discipleship GroupMe on your phone or computer for live updates a professional platform, not social media*

Contact Information



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Becoming a Sympathizer
any interest in anything Catholic

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord” ~Mark 1:3

Everyone’s personal journey through life is so unique. Yet, no matter who you are, where you came from, where you have been, or where you are at right now, you have already experienced Goodness, Truth, and Beauty in some way somewhere. Perhaps you have already experienced them through some kind of journey of faith or philosophy you have inherited, discovered, or developed growing up as a child. Perhaps you have been heavily influenced by family or friends who have helped shape the very foundational structures of your personal beliefs. Perhaps you have had to search or even fight for Goodness, Truth, and Beauty on your own. Perhaps you are tired of looking at the stars in search for more meaning and trying to figure out who you really are, where you really came from, and where you are ultimately going with your life as a spec in the cosmos. Perhaps you are already psychologically content with a different Christian Community. No matter who you are, where you came from, where you have been, or where you are at right now, Catholicism has something *more* to offer you.

Perhaps you are not yet fully convinced that God is even there, or even if he is, that it even matters enough to reach out for a meaningful relationship with him that involves your authentic happiness in this life or in another life. What you do know for sure is that evil, error, and pain are real, and the current world we live in can be very ugly. Perhaps your past is a broken childhood full of trauma, suffering, or addiction: broken hopes, broken dreams, broken relationships, broken bodies. We live in a very fallen world, and we can begin to wonder, “how could all this happen to me if there is really a God who is all good, all knowing, and all powerful? Why is God so silent while I suffer? Why would God do this to me? Does God even care?” Perhaps you have experienced the reality of the dark world and have been involved with the occult or other non-Christian religions to the point of feeling enslaved by darkness. Perhaps you are simply scared and do not know what to do. Catholicism can heal you. Catholicism can save you. Catholicism can set you free with the power of divine love. The Catholic Church has been doing this successfully for over 2,000 years in good times and in bad – and we are still here proclaiming the same wisdom and healing power of Christ crucified (Gal 2:20; 1 Cor 2).

The Catholic Church wants to listen to you and hear your questions. The Catholic Church also wants to ask you questions to help open your eyes: Who are you, where did you come from, and where are you going? Why is there something rather than nothing? Can there be any lasting meaning in life without God? How do you explain the human heart’s desire for transcendence? Is pain necessarily void of love? etc. The Catholic Church wants to dialogue with you. Why do you believe what you believe? What are the reasons for your faith? What are your trustworthy sources for truth? Is your faith *really* reasonable? Ultimately, the Catholic Church wants to provide a luscious spiritual banquet for you to enjoy with the fullness of Sacred Truth, Sacred Goodness, and Sacred Beauty (Wis 9).



□ Repent and Renounce Evil and Error

The first step toward a happy life is to repent and renounce evil and error. If you want to live a good life, then you must first repent from the bad that you have done as you know it in your conscience. If you want to enjoy Heaven on earth, then you must first renounce Hell on earth as you have experienced it. If you want to be filled with the Truth, then you must first be willing to empty yourself of all error as you understand it. It will take a gradual process to fully repent and believe in the Gospel in the way that the Catholic Church understands it (Mk 1). That is ok. It is normal. It is a human process. It is a healing process. Your journey toward Goodness, Truth, and Beauty is unique. Your personal relationship with God is unique. Consider reciting this following formula as a loving invitation to take an initial baby step toward heaven:

Act of Desire for Goodness, Truth, and Beauty

I [*name*], freely choose to repent from all the bad that I have done in my life. I desire to follow my conscience and to be free from any habits of evil. I am sorry for all the ways I have wounded others by my words and actions. I want to live a life that is truly Good, Beautiful, and full of Love. I also freely choose to renounce all evil in my life that I have seen, done, or experienced in thought or deed. I renounce all spiritual darkness within and around me, and I renounce any darkness within or around me caused by others, including any curses or evil spirits against me. I freely reject all falsehoods, lies, and deceptions. I desire to empty my mind of all error so that I can be filled and enlightened by Truth.



Once you repent and renounce evil and error, you are ready to embark on your new journey toward a fullness of Goodness, Truth, and Beauty. It may be helpful to make an “Act of Desire for Goodness, Truth, and Beauty” multiple times, even daily with the words above or words of your own. You may find that your mind and heart will grow in clarity and openness to seeking the living God with growing freedom and delight. You may also notice an increasing restlessness in your heart as it begins to wonder about religious questions that go deeper and deeper. That is ok. It is normal. It is good for your soul to grow in wonder and to begin to feel a thirst for God. Instead of focusing first on faith, it is best to focus on your pure intention and firm commitment to pursue Goodness, Truth, and Beauty.

A Sympathizer is not yet interested in possibly becoming Catholic, but someone who begins to sway away from evil and error to shift toward an initial Goodness, Truth, or Beauty discovered in Catholicism. Time as a Sympathizer has no fixed duration or structure. It could be days; it could be decades. Everyone’s journey is free, personal, and unique. This stage as a Sympathizer is of great importance and deserves the upmost reverence as the heart begins to yearn for *more*. The claim of Catholicism is that we have the gifts to facilitate full union with Jesus Christ who is the way, the truth, and the life (Jn 14:6) - who can fulfill all your spiritual expectations, and indeed infinitely surpass them.

Friendly Advice for Sympathizers

- ◆ Continue to make an “Act of Desire for Goodness, Truth, and Beauty” frequently, even daily.
- ◆ Spend intentional time in silence regularly to cultivate honest reflections on your whole life and your personal experience with evil and Goodness, error and Truth, Beauty and Love. Pay special attention to specific thoughts, feelings, desires, or memories that keep emerging in the silence.
- ◆ Even if you do not yet fully believe in God, be bold and try to pray. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Just do it! Talk to God honestly in the silence of your heart – say literally whatever you want to God. At some point, ask him to reveal himself to you personally. Then let God be God in the silence. Be open to a personal encounter. If God does not exist, then an attempt to pray is not going to do any harm, but if he does exist, then it may change your life! God will always draw you with love toward the fullness of his Sacred Goodness, Truth, and Beauty.
- ◆ Allow yourself to become friends with another Catholic. Catholics are not evil. They want to love you unconditionally and help you become happy and fulfilled in your life. Yes, Catholics are not perfect, and you may see a Catholic sin. That is ok. It is normal. It is human. Just because you saw one American having a bad day does not mean that the United States is evil. Catholics have learned to distinguish between hating the sin while always loving the sinner. Some Catholics may be more exclusive, others more inclusive. Find a joyful Catholic who is mature, friendly, and willing to be honest yet gentle. A good Catholic always discusses the truth in love with patience.
- ◆ Ask a Catholic for prayers. Just like praying yourself, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain! If the Catholic God is not real, then nothing may happen. If the Catholic God is real, then anything can happen. Catholics love offering prayers to help others! It is best practice to give a Catholic something specific in your life to pray for. The more specific the better. Keep asking.
- ◆ Ask a Catholic the religious questions stirring in your heart. Start with easy more surface-level questions and then move toward the deeper questions on your restless heart. Be willing to have a friendly dialogue open to different personal experiences and religious perspectives. Conversations about Truth need to come from someone you can trust as a reliable witness. However, recognize that while everyone can believe in their own truth, not everyone can be *right* in the end. Error is possible. Do not underestimate the serious damage that error can cause throughout one’s life.
- ◆ Bring up all your objections and obstacles to Catholicism *to a Catholic*. Catholics enjoy witnessing to the reasons for their faith. Please do not be afraid of offend the Catholic Church! We have heard everything. It is very likely that there is simply a surface-level misunderstanding. The Catholic will likely have a different approach to the topic than you. It is better to have a little friendly conflict in an honest conversation than to “sweep difficult conversations under the rug.” Hiding from conversations about Truth does not bring anyone closer to Truth. It is best practice to have *friendly* conversations about Truth rather than making hard-hearted polemic accusations.
- ◆ Allow yourself to be warmly welcomed by our community of Catholics by attending a parish or school social event. It may not be helpful to attend Holy Mass, which is mature worship for Catholics. Attend other activities or prayerful events hosted by the parish or school. It is best practice to get to know many different Catholics to get a local sense of the Catholic Church.
- ◆ Allow yourself to prudently detach from environments, friends, and even family members who influence you back toward evil and error. Our Parish Family offers many opportunities for meaningful relationships of all types who will draw you toward Goodness, Truth, and Beauty.
- ◆ Consider becoming an Inquirer: someone who is interested in *possibly* becoming Catholic. You can always back out of it at any time. Inquirers believe that Catholicism is at least worth a professional conversation and are willing to try it out. Inquirers who end up intending to become Catholic will have a later opportunity to state that intention by becoming a Catechumen or Candidate.

2025-2026 Catholic Discipleship Chiastic Curriculum Calendar

Date	Focus	Mystery
06/09 – 07/05	Human Formation	How can we grow in human friendship?
07/06 – 07/12	Initial Kerygma	What is the big picture of Catholicism?
07/13 – 08/16	Philosophy	What can we know without God telling us?
08/17 – 09/27	Sacred Scripture	What has God told us?
09/28 – 11/01	Sacred Doctrine	What do we know for sure by faith?
11/02 – 12/24	Sacred Liturgy	How do we have real contact with Jesus now?
12/25 – 01/03	Nativity Mysteries	How is God with us?
01/04 – 01/17	Sacred Liturgy	How do we have real contact with Jesus now?
01/18 – 02/21	Morality	How should I act in imitation of Jesus?
02/22 – 04/1	Church History	How has humanity responded to the Gospel?
04/02 – 04/11	Paschal Mysteries	What does love look like?
04/12 – 05/16	Spirituality	What is growing in holiness like?
05/17 – 05/24	Final Kerygma	What is the big picture of Catholicism?
05/25 – future	Catholic Keynote	How can we grow as practicing Catholics?

February 14th is the final deadline for becoming Catholic within the 2025-2026 OCIA Cycle

The Catholic Church warmly welcomes you on your journey of faith!

